





Fanning the Flame of Ministry in Children


by Thomas Trask


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Jesus said, "A child shall lead them." It is interesting that leadership could come for adults through children, but that is what the Scripture states. Let us look at some of the attributes children have from which we can learn.


 First, they are tender to the things of God. They have not yet become calloused or hardened, thus they demonstrate an openness to God from which we as adults could learn.

 Secondly, they are responsive. If you ask a child to do something, he usually responds in the affirmative. As a pastor, I have learned over the years that if you ask children to do something in the church, they are most ready to say yes.

 Thirdly, they have a simple, childlike faith—a much needed quality when it comes to this matter of ministry. They are trusting; they are believing. They believe if you ask the Lord for something, He will do it. How many have received a healing as the result of a child's prayers? Many are the testimonies to this truth.

 Fourthly, they are very generous. They will give of their last nickel or dime, be it for

BGMC or some other ministry. They have a trust that if they give to the Lord, He will somehow give back to them and supply for them.

 Fifthly, they have the ability to get others involved in their task or ministry, be it a parent or grandparent. They will pull at one's heartstrings. Recently my five-year-old grandson came to me and said, "Papa, I have pledged \$1,001 to BGMC for this



coming year. You are going to help me, aren't you?" Well, you know my answer was yes, and I plan to do so. I am not sure he had an understanding of what that amount even was, but that was immaterial. He believed that he could do it, and he believed that he could get others to help him.

I recently had the joy of attending the BGMC banquet for the nation and heard testimonies of how children from our churches had pledged not hundreds of dollars but thousands of dollars and then proceeded to fulfill those pledges through a multiplicity of ways.

We as a church must realize the time to start getting people involved in ministry is to start them when they are children. Many a child has received his call to ministry as a result of having been a part of a children's church, a Christmas program, a VBS, or some other ministry within the church. The flame might be small to begin with, but if we will fan that flame (encourage), then only eternity will reveal how the Lord can use them.

We have heard testimonies of how God has called children to become missionaries, and today they are on the mission field serving Him in foreign countries. God does speak to children. God does call children to ministry. It is our privilege as a church to fan that flame. I pray that we will watch for every opportunity to encourage these little ones, who are easily influenced and shaped, to use their lives to become a blessing for Christ and His Church.

Questions for Further Study—

1. What are some things adults can learn from children?
2. What qualities make children open to hearing from God?
3. It is stated that the best time to get people involved in ministry is when they are children. Why is this true?

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